THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF GENUS *CREOCHITON* BL. (MELASTOMATACEAE)

Blume (1831) established the genus *Creochiton* on the basis of *Melastoma pudibundum* Bl. and *Melastoma bibracteatum* Bl. from Java. The main generic characters are the absence of extra-ovarial chambers, the presence of dorsally spurred and ventrally inappendiculate anthers and the presence of two large or small bracteoles enveloping the flower buds. Triana (1871) reduced Naudin's *Creochiton superba* and Miquel's *C. emarginata* to *C. bibracteata* Bl. and *C. pudibunda* Bl. respectively.

The description of a third species *Creochiton rosea* from the Island of Mindano in the Phillippines by Merrill (*Philipp. Govt. Lab. Br. Bull.* 29: 32. 1905) represented the extension of the generic range. Elmer (Leaflet, *Philipp. Bot.* 4: 1192. 1911) added one more species *C. diptera* from the Philippines and later Mansfeld (1925) described four more species all from New Guinea.

Naudin (1852) assigned the genus *Creochiton* to subtribe *Pyxidantheae*; whereas Miquel (1855) erected subtribe *Creochiteae.* However Bentham & Hooker included *Creochiton* in the tribe *Medinilleae* (=Dissochaeteae) and Triana (1871), Cogniaux (1891), and Krasser (1893) appropriately assigned this to the Tribe *Dissochaeteae.* In 1925 Mansfeld (1925) noted the basal placentation in *Creochiton* and he transferred the genus to the tribe *Astronieae* as the tribe *Dissochaeteae* is characterised by axile placentation. Bakh. f. (1943) proposed subtribe *Creochitoninae* under the tribe *Astronieae* in order to accommodate this genus (having baccate fruits and cuneate seeds). Though agreeing with Bakh. f. (l.c.) in the creation of a subtribe for accommodating the genus *Creochiton* the overwhelming weight of evidence indicates that this genus should be grouped under the Tribe *Dissochaeteae* mainly on account of its habit, the nature of dehiscence of the anthers, the presence of baccate fruits and cuneate seeds. Accordingly it is proposed to transfer the subtribe *Creochitoninae* to the Tribe *Dissochaeteae.*

The subtribes *Dissochaetinae* Naudin and *Creochitoninae* Bakh. f. under tribe. *Dissochaeteae* can be distinguished by the following characters.

Placentae angulis internis loculorum affixae ... *Dissochaetinae*

Placentae loculorum basi vel semibasi affixae ... *Creochitoninae*

Under the subtribe *Creochitoninae* there are two genera *Creochiton* Bl. and *Eisocreochiton* Merr.

Key to the Genera of subtribe Creochitoninae

1. Connective dorsally ending in a spur and ventrally inappendiculate; extraovarial chambers absent ... *Creochiton* Bl.

1. Connective dorsally ending in a spur and ventrally biappendiculate; extraovarial chambers confined to the top of the ovary ... *Eisocreochiton* Merr.

Geographical distribution: *Creochiton* Bl. There are about 8 species confined to Java, New Guinea and the Philippines and all are endemics. *C. bibracteata* (Bl.) Bl. and *C. pudibunda* (Bl.) Bl. are confined to Java. *C. rosea* Merr. and *C. diptera* Elm. are restricted to the Philippines, whereas New Guinea has 4 species. This is essentially a Philippine-Papuan genus and its occurrence in Java is interesting as there are no records from Moluccas and Borneo.

Eisocreochiton Quisumb. & Merr.

Of the 3 species so far known, *Eisocreochiton bracteata* Quisumb. & Merr. is endemic to the Philippines; the other two *E. monticola* (Ridl.) Nayar and *E. furfuracea* Nayar are both endemic to the Sarawak state of Borneo.

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CHROMOSOME SURVEY OF CERTAIN ANGIOSPERMS—II

Family and name of the Taxon	*Chromosome Number*	*Locality*	*Voucher Number*
MENISPERMACEAE			
Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels	n=13	India, West Bengal, Indian Botanic Garden	CBLH 10830
TILIACEAE			
Grewia abutifolia Vent. ex Juss.	n=9	India, West Bengal, Indian Botanic Garden	CBLH 10861
ONAGRACEAE			
Ludwigia octovalvis (Jacq.) Raven	n=16, 2n=32	India, West Bengal, Indian Botanic Garden	CBLH 10556
APOCYNACEAE			
Rauwolfia reflexa T. & B.	n=88	India, West Bengal, Indian Botanic Garden	CBLH 12030
ASCLEPIADACEAE			
Pentatropis capensis (L.) Bullock	n=11, 2n=22	India, West Bengal, Diamond Harbour	CBLH 10540
Telosma pallida (Roxb.) Grany	n=11, 2n=22	India, West Bengal, Dum Dum	CBLH 10537
SCROPHULARIACEAE			
Bonnaya brachiata Link & Otto	n=9	India, West Bengal, Subhasgram	CBLH 10680
Mazus japonicus (Thunb.) Kuntze	n=20	India, West Bengal, Indian Botanic Garden	CBLH 10612

Vouchers in CBLH.

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